



NEWS RELEASE

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\$21.7 Million For Kansas Water Projects Approved By USDA Rural Development *Thirteen Kansas Communities To Benefit*

Burlington, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks announced today that the Agency has approved \$21.7 million in USDA Rural Development funding for thirteen rural water service and sewer projects that will provide long-term benefits to over 17,700 Kansans. This second half 2008 funding, provided from the recently approved Farm Bill and regular USDA Rural Development's program allocation, brings the total USDA support of such projects to nearly \$38 million for Kansas this year.

"USDA Rural Development's *Water and Environmental Program* is one of the most important community and economic development efforts this Agency undertakes for rural Kansas. These USDA funds, combined with the Agency's technical assistance which supports local leadership, helps make these critically needed services a reality. It is important that rural Kansans keep pace with their basic need to have access to safe and reliable water sources. Additionally, this valuable USDA program promotes economic growth and enhances the quality of life for the area residents served by these projects and all of Kansas," commented State Director Banks.

Senator Pat Roberts commenting on the event said, "I am pleased USDA Rural Development will be making this critical federal investment in several communities across the state, enhancing quality of life for residents and businesses. This is just one example of why I supported the 2008 Farm Bill and worked to ensure funding for programs benefitting rural America in the bill."

The thirteen Kansas projects approved for funding by USDA Rural Development follow:

City of Burlington, KS - \$7,079,700 (\$5,800,000 direct loan and \$1,279,700 grant) This project, which will benefit a population of 2,790, will repair the city's sewer collection system by installing new replacement pipe in the system. The project will also consist of rehabilitating or replacing 111 manholes.

Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 23, Chanute, KS - \$5,790,000 (\$3,807,000 direct loan and \$1,983,000 grant) This project consists of modifying an existing water treatment plant and constructing water lines to serve the four cities and fifteen Rural Water Districts that make up Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 23. The entire project will serve a population of 21,335.

Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 11, Crawford County, KS - \$1,784,300 (\$1,074,000 direct loan and \$710,300 grant) The project, benefiting 12,063 residents, will consist of constructing a 500,000 gallon elevated water tower, building a pump station, constructing an office/storage facility, and installing a telemetry system.

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Chautauqua County Rural Water District #4, Sedan, KS - \$1,727,000 (\$791,000 direct loan and \$936,000 grant) Funding of this project will be used to complete Phase II of a three phase project. Phase II will consist of installing water lines, meters, construction of a booster pump station, and a water storage tank. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$46,000 and State and Tribal Assistance Grant funds in the amount of \$1,200,000.

City of Spearville, KS - \$1,506,000 (direct loan) The project, benefiting 813 rural residents, will construct a building to house the pump and chlorination equipment, purchase a stand-by generator, install water line, and fire hydrants.

City of Olpe, KS - \$1,256,756 (\$706,720 direct loan and \$550,036 grant) Funding of this project, which will benefit a population of 504 residents, will be used to construct an elevated storage tank, upgrade pumps, and install water line with telemetry controls.

Morris County Rural Water District #1, Dwight, KS - \$996,000 (\$736,000 direct loan and \$260,000 grant) Agency funds will be used to complement the current obligation that consists of installing approximately 31 miles of water line to hook up 66 new customers. The project will also involve construction of a standpipe and installation of 66 meters. This project will serve a population of 6,104.

City of Damar, KS - \$500,690 (\$309,690 direct loan and \$191,000 grant) This project, benefiting 155 rural residents, will be used to install water main and fire hydrants.

Ellsworth County Rural Water District #1, Ellsworth, KS - \$347,000 (grant) This project, benefiting 6,754 rural residents, will be used to make modifications at the water treatment plant to bring the system into compliance with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment requirements. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$42,134 and a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant.

Red Bud Lake Improvement District, Abilene, KS - \$310,000 (\$171,000 direct loan and \$139,000 grant) Agency funds will be used to complement the current obligation that replaces the private septic systems with a centralized collection system. The project will also involve replacing the existing water lines and resurfacing roads. The Improvement District will purchase water from the City of Abilene and their sewage will be treated by the City of Abilene.

City of St. Paul, KS - \$264,500 (direct loan) Agency funds will be used to complement the current obligation that consists of replacing the obsolete Raw Water Intake Structure. This project will serve a population of 646.

City of Chase, KS - \$78,000 (direct loan) Agency funds will be used to complement the current obligation that is being used to replace a majority of the water lines within the community. This project will serve a population of 490.

Pottawatomie County Rural Water District No. 2, Olsburg, KS - \$65,000 (direct loan) This project, benefiting 1,316 rural residents, will be used to install six new radio telemetry units that will provide for automatic start and stop of the pumps that fill the two storage facilities.

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During the announcement, State Director Banks thanked the Kansas Congressional Delegation for their continued support of the Agency's *Water and Environmental Program*, along with the many other USDA Rural Development programs. "Over the past fifteen years alone, the Agency's *Water and Environmental Program* has invested over \$314 million towards the Sunflower State's economy, benefiting more than 243,000 rural Kansans. We should all thank our U.S. Senators and Representatives for supporting this benefit to the entire State," remarked Banks.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for rural Americans. As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has delivered over \$1.2 billion for Kansas covering all Agency programs, supporting well over \$6 billion in future economic development for the Sunflower State.

For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, interested parties may call the Agency's state headquarters at 785-271-2700 or log onto the state's USDA Rural Development website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

USDA Rural Development – *Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.*

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